WIVID DESCRIPTION OF EXPER-IENCES AT LADYSMITH.

According to a Letter Written in November by the Late Mr. Steevens Existence There Was Maddening.

London Mail of Feb. 3. I was going to give you another dose of the dull diary. But I haven't the heart. It would weary you, and I cannot say how

horribly it would weary me. I am sick of it. Everybody is sick of it. They said the force which would open the line and set us going against the enemy would begin to land at Durban on the 11th and get into touch with us by the 16th. Now it is the 26th; the force, they tell us, has landed and is somewhere on the line between Maritzburg and Estcourt, but of advance not a sign.

Buller, they tell us one day, is at Bloemfontein; next day he is coming round to Durban; the next he is a prisoner in Pre- London Letter.

The only thing certain is that, whatever is happening, we are out of it. We know nothing of the outside, and of the inside there is nothing to know. Weary, stale, flat, unprofitable the whole thing. At first to be besieged and bombarded was a thrill; then it was a joke; now it is nothing but a weary, weary, weary bore. We do nothing but eat and drink and sleep-just exist dismally. We have forgotten when the to care when it ends. For my part I feel languid fighting, languid cessation, forever and ever. We shall drop off one by one and listlessly die of old age.

And in the year 2099 the New Zealander antiquarian, digging among the buried cities of Natal, will come upon the forgota handful of Rip Van Winkle Boers with white beards down to their knees, behind quaint, antique guns, shelling a cactus grown ruin. Inside, sheltering in holes, he will find a few decrepit creatures, very, the past home to New Zealand. But they peace. Having never known anything but bombardment, they will die of terror with-

So be it. I shall not be there to see. But I shall wrap these lines up in a Red Cross flag and bury them among the ruins of tions, the unnumbered readers of the Daily Mail may in the enlightened year 2100 know what a siege and a bombardment

Sometimes I think the siege would be just as bad without the bombardment.

In some ways it would be even worse; siege is an unredeemed curse. Sieges are besieged or besieger was the natural lot of man; to give ten years at a stretch to it was all in a life's work; there was nothing tory was gained one year, and a fast frigate arrived with the news the next, a man still had leisure in his life for a year's siege now and again.

But to the man of 1899-or, by'r Lady, inclining to 1900-with five editions of the evening papers every day, a siege is a thousand-fold a hardship. We make it a grievance nowadays if we are a day behind the news-news that concerns us nothing. DEADLY DULLNESS.

And here are we with the enemy all most hours of the day, and for the best definite news about the men for whom we must wait to get out of it. We wait and wonder, first expectant, presently apathetic, and feel ourselves grow old.

now what Dartmoor feels like. The practiced vagabond tires in a fortnight of a European capital; of Ladysmith he sickens

dozen miles into the country, there was little that was new, nothing that was insaucer, and stare up at the pitiless ring of hills that bark death. Always the same etiff, naked ridges, flat-capped with our intrenchments-always, always the same. As morning hardens to the brutal clearness of South African midday, they march you try to go up you are a dead man.

Beyond is the world-war and love. Clery marching on Colenso, and all that a man hold: dear in a little island under the North Star. But you sit here to be idly shot at You are of it, but not in it-clean out of the world. To your world and to yourself you are every bit as good as dead -except that dead men have no time to I know now how a monk without a voca-

tion feels. I know how a fly in a beer bottle feels.

I know how it tastes, too.

And with it all there is the melinite and

the shrapnel. To be sure they give us the only pin-prick of interest to be had in Ladysmith. It is something novel to live in this town turned inside out. Where people should be, the long, long day from dawn to daylight, shows only a | English Renders Feel that They Are dead blank.

Where business should be the sleepy shop blinds droop. But where no business | London Spectator. should be-along the crumbling ruts that' lead no whither-clatters wagon after wagon, with curling whip lashes and piles of bread and hay.

Where no people should be-in the clefts at the river bank, in bald patches of yeldt ringed with rocks, in overgrown ditchesall these you find alive with men and

The place that, a month ago, was only fit to pitch empty meat tins into is now priceless stable room; two squadrons of troop horses pack flana to flank inside its shelter. A scrub-entangled hole, with, perhaps, nobody save runaway Kaffirs ever set foot in before, is now the envied habitation of the callogn. The most worthless rock heap below a perpendicular slope is

now the choicest of town lots. The whole center of gravity of Ladysmith is changed. Its belly lies no longer in the multifarious emporia along the High street, but in the earth-reddened, half-invisible tents that bashfully mark the commissariat stores. Its brain is not the Town Hall, the best target in Ladysmith, but headquarters under the stone-packed hill. The riddled Royal Hotel is its social center no longer; it is to the trench-seamed sailors' camp or the wind-swept shoulders of Caesar's camp that men go to hear and

ted the news. EXECUTION OF THE GUNS. Poor Ladysmith! Deserted in its markets, repeopled in its wastes; here ripped with iron splinters, there rising again into railroofed, rock-walled caves; trampled down in its gardens, manured where nothing can and bowels bored with tunnels-the Boers may not have hurt us, but they have left

their mark for years on her. They have not hurt us much-and yet the casualties mount up. Three to-day, two yeswounded with one shell-they are nothing the French and the, on the whole, goodat all, but they mount up. I suppose we stand at about fifty now, and there will be | blatant Britisher. For, after all, his great more before we are done with it. And then | hero, "Cousin George"-Admiral Deweythere are moments when even this drip- the calm, imperturbable man of action, pling bombardment can be appalling. I happened into the center of the town

THE SIEGE FROM WITHIN ing madly in, with a shrill, a blast. mountain of earth, and a hailstorm of stones on iron roofs. Horses winced at the buffet. Men ran madly away from it. A dog rushed out yelping-and on the yelp. from the other quarter, came the next shell. Along the broad straight street not a vehicle, not a white man was to be seen. Only a herd of niggers cowering under

The season of the war.

water a go a like the original

filmsy fences at a corner. Another crash and quaking, and this time in a cloud of dust an outbuilding jumped and tumbled asunder. A horse streaked down the street with trailing halter. Round the corner scurried the niggers; the next was due from Pepworth's.

Then the tearing scream; horror! it was coming from Bulwan. Again the annihilating blast, and not ten yards away. A roof gaped and a house leaped to pieces. A black reeled over, then terror plucked him up again, and sent him Head down, hands over ears, they tore

down the street, and from the other side swooped down the implacable, irresistible

You come out of the dust and the stench of melinite, not knowing where you were, hardly knowing whether you were hitonly knowing that the next was rushing on its way. No eyes to see it, no limbs to escape, no bulwark to protect, no army to avenge. You squirm between iron fingers. Nothing to do but endure.

HE DIED GARTERLESS.

Because He Smoked the Last Duke of Teck Missed an Honor.

He was a great smoker, and seems to have been privileged to smoke on all occasions, and even in the houses of his illustrious relations, when other guests had to be most strict in their conformity to the

rules of tobacco.

I myself have seen the Duke of Teck driving through the Strand, accompanied by the princess, his wife, and by the Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, puffing furious clouds from a huge cigar between his teeth. I have also seen him, on the terrace of Marlborough House, standing amid a group of his royal highness's relations of both sexes, not only smoking, but the only one smoking. Indeed, it is said that this habit of his for a cigar lost him the Order of the Garter, which he very nearly re-ceived at the time of his daughter's wedding. His solitary decoration at that time was the Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath, and it is whispered that the Prince of Wales himself suggested to his royal mother that the Duke of Teck ought to be given the garter, if only in view of the fact that he was the father of a daughter who would probably become, in such time as God willed it, Queen of Great Britain and

Her Majesty, it is said, acquieced. There | classic phrase, he shows in the great case had been a family dinner at Windsor, and of England vs. Ireland a good deal of "the the Tecks were present and had also been | natural resentment of a quick-witted race invited to sleep at the castle. The rooms at being governed by a stupid one," he assigned to the duke and duchess were never betrays any venom. He may be a n close vicinity to those of her Majesty. Now, the Queen never was a lover of to- of Mr. Davitt, just as, though obviously an bacco. Her late husband was not much of | anti-expansionist, he does not scruple to a smoker. She was brought up in an age when tobacco never came near a lady's drawing room, and certainly remained very extremist, and the exuberance of his style of Wales and his brothers, are all smokers. but it is stated that they never smoke in their mother's presence, except in the open air. The only man connected with the court who was ever known to openly smoke in places where the Queen might possibly detect the narcotic odor was the late John Brown. However, to return to my mut-

On the particular night of the family dinner mentioned above, after the Queen had retired to bed, and when presumably she had made up her mind that Francis of Teck should be told the following morning at breakfast that he should have the garter, she suddenly detected the smell of Her Majesty at once touched the cule. see what was the matter.

claimed the Queen. out, and for the next few minutes there was a dreadful commotion in that particu-There was ringing of bells, tramping of

berlains from their beds, a hasty summoning of the lord high controller of the household and a scurry into garments on the part of equerries and deputy gold and | that he has come anywhere near exhaustsilver sticks in waiting. "The Queen ing the peculiar vein of caustic drollery of smells smoke!" was bandled from mouth which he is the fortunate monopolist. to mouth. "Tobacco smoke!" Horror and consternation covered the features of the half-dressed bevy of court attendants, who all knew only too well of her Majesty's abhorrence of "the weed that cheers." Then there was a tour of investigation. Chamberlains, with their noses sniffing up, went in one direction. Equerries, with their at last the smell was traced-and definitely traced-to the apartment occupied by his highness the Duke and her royal highness the Duchess of Teck. The lower court officials, such as equerries and chamberlains, scarcely ventured to hammer at the ducal door; after all the Duchess of Teck granddaughter of George III as the Queen herself. But the grand controller of the household did venture to knock, and he hammered with such effect upon the panels that the Duke of Teck himself opened the door, attired in pajamas somewhat short

in the ankle, and, awful to relate, a short His highness looked surprised naturally. Then he asked what was the matter, and haps thinking that there was a Paris conspiracy, and he was about to be assassinated like his late great-uncle, the Emin on you till Bulwan seems to tower ever peror Paul of Russia (I think it was Paul), marrying him. But she eloped and the your very heads. There it is close over and then the chorus of royal myrmidons family disowned her-or, at least, thought

It is presumed that his highness at once nostrils and had sunk once more into slumber. But the next morning, when the royal mother of the Duke of Teck and the garter, he was peremptorily silenced with: him. He woke me up with his awful to-bacco." And the Duke of Teck has died garterless!

WHY THEY LIKE DOOLEY.

He never forgets that, although an Amer-

in Debt to Him.

ican politician, he is an Irishman at heart; and this is what gives detachment to his view and excuses the candor of his criti-He can say things of Americans and Englishmen which if divested of the brogue and a certain Hibernian exuberance of expression, might merely irritate his hearers. the Anglo-Saxon alliance-mongers which Beresford as "a sort iv advance agent iv the White Man's Burden Thrajeedy Company-two little Evas, four hundher mill yon Topsies, six hundher millyon Uncle Toms." Mr. Dooley "knowed his father well-a markess be thrade, an' a fine man. Char-les wint to sea early; but he's now in th' plastherin' business-cementin' th' liance iv th' United States an' England.' mixture of captious criticism and interested foolish and frivolous people, cheap but thrue-hearted an' insincere cousins * * * 'tis little ye know about annything. Ye ar-re a disgrace to humanity. Ye love th' dollar betther thin ye love annything but two dollars. Ye ar-re savage but inthrestin' Ye misname our titles. * * Ye have de sthroyed our language. * * * Ye ar-re mussy at th' table, an' ye have no religion. But ye ar-re whelps iv th' ol' line. Those iv ye that ar-re not our brothers-in-law we welcome as brothers. Ye annoy us so much This is really a wonderful touch; and hardly less good is the description of the Americans as feeling "like a long-lost brother that's been settin' outside in th' cold f'r a week an' is now ast in to supper -an' s'arched at th' dure f'r deadly weapons." Mr. Dooley is evidently no believer in formal alliances, and yet, if we cannot claim him as a lover of England, or, indeed, as more than a very candid friend, we may console ourselves with the reflection that there is a world of difference between his scarifying treatment of humored ridicule which he pours on the who, in Artemas Ward's phrase, never "slops over," is indistinguishable from the

GOOD THINGS TO EAT.

less distinct

intervals if he

Corned beef

and cabbage

gras to the

of a dyspeptic

The enjoy.

ment of eating

is healthy.

What they are depends mostly on the condition of the eater. Most anything is good to eat if a man is properly, healthily hungry.



of the stombowels, and do their work properly there accumulates in them un-digested, fermenting, putrid, blood poisoning matter. The appetite cannot be healthy till this is removed. A machine will not run if it is all clogged up with dirt. The stomach cannot appropriate food unless it is clean, and so healthy hunger cannot come. The stomach cannot be clean if the liver and bowels do not dispose of the food passed along to them. If poisonous, effete matter is allowed to accumulate and con-

gest the liver and bowels more or less of it gets into the blood, and is carried all over the body. Is it any wonder that it makes Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is designed to correct all disorders of the digestive and blood-making system and to drive all impurities out of the blood itself. It restores lost appetite and vitality, builds healthy flesh and muscle, changes sickness to health, misery to happiness.

John A. Calloway, Esq., of No. 218 26th Street, Columbus, Ga., writes: "I had catarrh for four years and also liver and kidney trouble. In 1894 I was working at night and I broke out in lumps all over and when these left, the skin peeled off. My eyes were sunken and I had pimples and brown spots on my face. Now these are all gone, and I believe I am entirely well. I have a good appetite, but before I commenced taking your 'Golden Medical Discovery' I had no appetite at all. Now I am like a child-ready

Shafter, to mention none others-a great deal harder, and, in any case, as Sir Edward a great deal of criticism. And if, to quote a home ruler, but he does not share the views laugh at the outbursts of Mr. Carnegie, and as determined a foe as the New York Evening Post itself to the national fault of

But our chief debt to Mr. Dooley is that

he is one of the very few writers of the

pelling laughter-take, for example, such phantasias as "The Hay Fleet," the inmitable imaginary interview between Admiral Dewey and Lieutenant Hobson, of "Merrimac" fame, or the parody of "Cyrano de Bergerac." The dramatized burlesque of the Dreyfus case is a really wonderful piece of sustained and deadly ridibell beside her couch, and two of the wo- to certain witnesses being sworn, "'They men who are always awake and in attend- | must be sworn,' retorts the president, 'How ance in the royal ante-chamber while the the divvle can they perjure themselves if majesty of England is at rest, rushed in to | they aren't sworn?" " We are indebted to him, again, for pillorying the effeminacy of the "dude," and, in general, for adopting an attitude of wholesome Philistinism toward the inopportune manifestations the great old lady with fear and amaze- of the artistic temperament. That he will ment, but they were soon ordered to find | be universally popular is not to be expected; satirists never can be; but it is of good augury that he has succeeded in evoking aversion much in the same quarters as Mr. sentries, rousing of deputy assistant cham- thing but a lenient critic. Lastly, we have little doubt that Mr. Dooley has "come to stay." His second book is on the lines of his first, but there is not the slightest sign

DRESSING FOR THE JURY.

Shrewd Women Know the Influence

New York Commercial Advertiser.

"Dressing for the jury? Oh, yes, women who have money always do it; it's quite as important as a good lawyer, and far more important than a clear conscience." said the successful dressmaker, as she eyelids at the effect of the last pleat she had arranged. The woman on the fitting tion in the long mirror as she asked "Have the four hundred. "Yes, I have made clothes for women who had to go to court, she replied. "I supose you remember that case of Mrs. K., who wanted to break her father's will, don't you? Well, I dressed her. She really had no case at all. She married a man the old gentleman disapproved of, and she had been warned what would happen if she insisted upon gentleman's money in spite of the will. Before the case came up she came to me cense was burnt in the corridors and eau | and we planned the costume she was to de cologne sprinkled upon the carpets in wear. She thought purple trimmed with great quantities before her Majesty ceased | fur would be becoming, but I vetoed that to find the smell of tobacco offending her | at once. No jury would sympathize with had been cut off with the customary shill-Prince of Wales ventured to remind his ing. I designed a black frock for her and a hat all soft, white and gray that made her look young and sweet and in-'No, Bertie, no. I am very angry with jured and interesting. The gown wasn't plain, severe, oldmaidish black, you may be sure. It was soft and trailing and very boa instead of fur. The boa cost just as much, but the jury didn't know that. She won her case, as you know. I say it was the costume. All the papers alluded to her 'modest bearing,' 'unostantatious appearance,' 'sweet, winning ways,' etc. Now, listen to this description in this morning's paper of a woman who only took the stand to say a few words: "'She wore a black-tailor-made gown of cheviot, stylishly cut. The jacket was buttoned almost up to her neck with innumerable black buttons, just revealing a bit of the white stock which circled softly around her full, dimpled neck.'

"Dimpled neck! Think of it! I suppose that reporter really thought he was paying "A few months ago, when a very sensational trial was going on, the woman who band, in whose crimes she was very much mixed up, wrote to me from the Tombs sking me to make her some clothes. She had been a customer of mine years before. I didn't think she could need clothes very badly in prison, and I didn't care to go to prison unless I had to, so I refused the order. She sent for a tailor, who went at once, and he made her two gowns and a jacket trimmed with ermine, just to wear in court. She simply dazzled the jury, and her beauty and her clothes made as much of a sensation as the scandalous case it

"Another woman for whom I made clothes wore them to court, but they were not made by me with that in view. She ran up a bill of \$1,500. I had brought things from Europe to her and made her frocks innumerable, and the bill was really very small, but she wouldn't pay it. I sued her for it, and the bold creature came to court with those gowns on that were not paid for. I won the case, but I have never been able to collect the money. But those gowns had their effect on the jury. They were so very pretty-even those stupid men knew they were worth what I said they were. Had she been clever she would have worn something ill-fitting and plain."

Awkwardly Put.

Philadelphia Press. "That short story of mine was returned to me again." said the young author. "Pshaw! Too bad!" exclaimed the wellmeaning friend. "Have you tried the Hokus-Pokus Magazine?" "No. Do you think they would accept it?" "They ought to. Goodness! They print some of the worst tommy-rot I ever read!"

one day when the two big guns were con-centrating a crossfire upon it.

Anglo-Saxon ideal of efficiency. If he hits centrating a crossfire upon it.

First from one side the shell came tear
President McKinley, Mr. Alger and General

Read the announcement of the Hotel

Empire, New York City, on Page 2 of this

paper.

Paper Patterns THE NEW IDEA

No better or more perfect fitting at any price. All patterns in the new spring catalogue in stock. Monday any pattern, none reserved, your choice8c

The Wm. H. Block Co.

SPRING SUGGESTIONS Sought from this store. The pre-

sumption is that is what you are after.

to points within 100 miles of Indianapolis.

An all-absorbing question with ladies to-day is the preparation of the new spring gown for street, for party, for dress or business. To wait is very unwise, you will admit, for stocks become depleted. You may as well get your pick, especially since most of the novelties when gone cannot be procured at any price. And again, your dressmaker is given plenty of time to do her very best; also will not fret you by holding back your work. Another reason: Prices are advancing to a point where if you wait much longer you'll pay half as much more. We're ready for you with the Choicest Novelties, the Handsomest Weaves and Color Arrangements in

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IF YOU FULLY KNEW ABOUT

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Of ours you would marvel at its completeness. You can learn it. What the ensuing lines don't tell you come to the store and find out.

Rainy Day and Plaid Back Skirtings

WIDEWALE CHEVIOTS-50 inches wide, all wool, castor, gray and cadet blue, require no linings, \$1.00 qual- 75c SCOTCH AMERICAN TWEEDS-58 inches

wide, the desirable shades of gray and castor, extra heavy, \$1.25 qual-\$1.00 PEBBLE CLOTHS-40 inches wide, strict-SCOTCH AMERICAN TWEEDS-58 inches wide, extra weight and superior quality, gray and castor mixtures, \$1.50 \$1.25

fect rainy day skirting, in all \$1.48 PLAID BACK SKIRTINGS-45 inches plain cheviot and serge face, with plaid backs, 16 different styles, the most complete line shown, regular \$1.25 \$1.50 quality PLAID BACK SKIRTINGS-58 inches wide, cheviot face, in navy blue, black,

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wide, plain cheviot face, in light, medium and dark castor, light, medium and oxford gray, with handsome interwoven plaid backs, in all the up-to-date GOLF PLAIDS-Extra heavy and superior quality, plain black and navy blue back with plaid face, regular \$4.00\$2.25

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CHEVIOTS-34 inches wide, gray and cas- SILK-EMBROIDERED FLANNELS-The tor mixtures, special for to-mor- 22c CHEVIOTS-40 and 44 inches wide, 59c all wool, complete line of colors CHEVIOTS-All wool, 50 inches wide, light, medium, oxford gray and light and 690 CHEVIOTS-All wool, 56 inches wide, extra heavy quality, in all the lead- 98c TRICOT CLOTHS-All wool, 34 inches wide; your choice of 16 colors to- 24c VENETIAN CLOTHS-All wool, excellent weight and quality, complete line 59c VENETIAN CLOTHS-54 inches wide, all wool, plain and mixed colorings, a popular ladies' tafloring, regular \$1.00 \$1.25 quality IMPORTED VENETIAN CLOTHS-52 inches, a most perfect finished cloth, in all the leading spring \$1.48 HENRIETTA CLOTH-45 inches wide HENRIETTA CLOTH-All wool, 40 inches wide, all the late evening as well 59c BATISTE-All wool, 40 inches wide, 59c in all the evening shades...... 59c

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LYONS PRINTED FOULARDS—A superb lot, the quality is good, patterns 58c new, 75c quality CORDED CHINAS-The washable kind guaranteed all silk, every color 46c used this season; special..... Black Silks Guaranteed

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Black Dress Goods

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LINEN CANVAS-Stiffening and skirt facing, black and tan, regular price 15c is 25c; sale price... DOUBLE-FACED SILESIA-A full yard wide, in a beautiful line of fancy designs. fast black backs, regular 25c quality, for this occasion..... MOREEN VELOURS-Fast black and handsome line of new shades, makes serviceable petticoat or skirt lin- 16c ing, 25e quality; in this sale..... MERCERIZED SATEEN-36 inches wide, fast black, makes a handsome petticoat, jacket or cape lining, a good value 19c at 30c; in this sale...... GLANZ SYLKE-In a beautiful line of high colors and black, imported mercerized English fabric, looks like satin and wears better, worth 35c; special 22,

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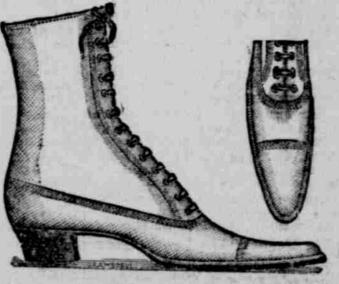
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